Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 09994 01 OF 02 231830Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W
----------106692 231841Z /43
P R 231815Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9047
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09994

E.O. 11552: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR
SUBJECT: GISCARD OPENS HIS MAJORITY AND MITTERRAND AGREES TO MEETING AT ELYSEE

SUMMARY. IN HIS FIRST POST-ELECTORAL SPEECH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING THANKED THE FRENCH NATION FOR HAVING MADE THE "RIGHT CHOICE" AND PLEDGED HIS EFFORTS TOWARD RECONCILIATION. HE MADE A POINT OF HIS INTENT TO INVITE POLITICAL, LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPECTRUM TO MEET WITH HIM AS A STEP TOWARD OPENING UP THE MAJORITY TO WIDER PARTICIPATION. SOCIALIST LEADER MITTERRAND AND LABOR LEADER MAIRE (CFDT) HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED. GISCARD ALSO RESTATED THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF HIS PROGRAM -- REDRESSING THE ECONOMY, IMPROVING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REDUCING INEQUALITIES, AND DEVELOPING LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY. THE PRESIDENT IS NOW FACED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF KEY PERSONNEL CHOICES. END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 09994 01 OF 02 231830Z

1. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: GISCARD PLEDGED HIS EFFORTS TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT SIMPLY PICK INDIVIDUALS FROM VARIOUS PARTIES TO MAKE UP THE NEW GOVERNMENT; RATHER, THE INDIVIDUALS SELECTED WOULD SYMBOLIZE HIS EFFORTS TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATION BY THE OPPOSITION. HE NOTED THAT FRENCHMEN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

REGRETTED THE EXCESSIVE DIVISION BETWEEN THE MAJORITY AND THE OPPOSITION AND HE (GISCARD) INTENDED TO WORK FOR A RESPONSIBLE COHABITATION. HE WAS READY TO WORK WITH BOTH SIDES IN DEVELOPING A NEW MAJORITY-OPPOSITION RELATIONSHIP. HIS CHOICE OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD COME AFTER HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERS, IN WHICH HE WOULD POSE THE MAIN, CURRENT QUESTION -- WHAT ARE FRANCE'S MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED. GISCARD HAS ALREADY SCORED TWO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS AS PS LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERRAND AND CFDT HEAD EDMOND MAIRE HAVE AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM (MAIRE MARCH 24 AND MITTERRAND NEXT WEEK). PC LEADER MARCHAIS AND MRG LEADER ROBERT FABRE HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO THE ELYSEE, BUT HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. OTHER LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERS ARE ALSO TO MEET WITH GISCARD THIS WEEK.

2. THREE PRIMARY TARGETS: IN RESTATING THE THREE PROGRAM ORIENTATIONS OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, GISCARD EMPHASIZED HIS INTENT TO MEET THE CONCERNS OF THE FRENCH VOTERS AS EXPRESSED ON MARCH 12 AND 19. THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, OF THE PARTICULAR APPROACH HE INTENDED TO TAKE WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED SOME FORETASTE OF THE MAKEUP OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COME. GISCARD'S OBJECTIVES ARE IN LINE WITH AN OPENING TO THE OPPOSITION AND REFLECT MANY OF ITS CONCERNS ELABORATED DURING THE CAMPAIGN. IN HIS SPEECH, GISCARD STATED THAT WHILE HE DID NOT EXPEECT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 09994 01 OF 02 231830Z

OPPOSITION NECESSARILY TO AGREE WITH HIM, HE HOPED THEY COULD WORK TOGETHER IN MEETING COMMONLY RECOGNIZED NEEDS. THE APPEAL FOR AN ONGOING DIALOGUE, IF NOT PARTICIPATION, WAS CLEAR.

3. POLITICAL PARTY REACTIONS:
   -- THE RPR: INITIAL RPR REACTION HAS BEEN GUARDED, WARNING AGAINST ALLOWING THE DESIRE FOR AN OPENING TO THE LEFT, TO LEAD THE GOVERNMENT INTO THE ERRORS OF THE CONDEMNED COMMON PROGRAM.
   -- THE PS: THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND AGREED TO MEET WITH GISCARD WAS SURPRISING. GISCARD'S COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS RESPECT FOR OPPOSING OPINIONS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A DIALOGUE OVER PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN, HOWEVER, PERHAPS STRUCK JUST THE RIGHT NOTE IN ALLOWING THE PS TO COME WITH HONOR TO THE ELYSEE.
   -- THE CDS: CDS LEADER LECANUET NOTED THAT THE CDS HAD LONG SUPPORTED AN OPENING TO THE LEFT AND THE SOCIAL REFORM DESIRED BY THE PRESIDENT.
   -- THE PC: THE MORNING EDITORIAL IN HUMANITE STRU-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

CK A CYNICAL NOTE WITH THE OBSERVATION

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 09994 02 OF 02 231835Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W
----------106792 231840Z /43
P R 231815Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9048
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09994

THAT GISCARD'S EFFORT TO OPEN TO THE LEFT WAS ONLY A VEHICLE FOR OBTAINING SOME TOKEN LEFT SUPPORT FOR HIS CONTINUING PROGRAM AIMED AT EXPLOITING THE WORKERS, MAINTAINING THE PRIVILEGED CLASS, ETC.

4. PRIME MINISTER -- WHO?: THE BIG GUESSING GAME REMAINS AS TO WHO WILL BE THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE SPEECH GAVE ONLY ONE CLUE -- IT WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD TRY TO WORK WITH THE OPPOSITION. GISCARD DID NOT SAY WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE NAMED, SPECIFYING ONLY THAT IT WOULD BE AFTER HIS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, RPR LEADER JACQUES CHIRAC HAS BEGUN TO ASSERT HIS ROLE IN THE MAJORITY'S VICTORY AND HIS INDEPENDENCE AS THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST PARTY IN THE MAJORITY AND IN FRANCE. HE HAS ALREADY STATED HIS INTENT TO BUILD UP THE RPR TO 30 PERCENT OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ELECTORATE (BASIS FOR A TRY FOR THE PRESIDENCY). WHOEVER IS SELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER MUST BE BOTH STRONG ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH CHIRAC AND MAINTAIN GAULLIST SUPPORT FOR GISCARD'S PROGRAM. THE GISCARDIAN UDF, WHILE WINNING MORE SEATS THAN EXPECTED, HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED COHERENCE AND LEADERSHIP THAT GISCARD NEEDS. THUS THE SELECTION OF ITS LEADER ALSO POSES A PROBLEM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

5. CONCLUSION: GISCARD IS OBVIOUSLY ELATED OVER THE ELECTORAL RESULTS AND IT SHOWED DURING HIS SPEECH. HE IS CONFIDENT AND IS MOVING AS QUICKLY AS HE FEELS HE CAN TOWARD GOVERNMENT FROM THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT HE IS GOING TO PROCEED SLOWLY IN HIS SELECTION OF THE NEW CABINET IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST PEOPLE POSSIBLE SYMBOLIZING HIS OPENING TO THE LEFT. THE SPEECH WAS VERY "UPBEAT" IN TONE AND WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO SET THE STAGE FOR THE "GISCARDIAN" ERA IN FRENCH POLITICS. GISCARD NOW HAS A RANGE OF KEY CHOICES TO MAKE -- PRIME MINISTER, KEY MINISTERS, PRESIDENT OF THE UDF ORGANIZATION, HEAD OF THE UDF GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THESE CHOICES MUST BE CAREFULLY BALANCED TO REFLECT HIS VARYING NEEDS. HIS ABILITY TO FIND THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB WILL BE CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING THE SUCCESS OF HIS REMAINING THREE YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE AND PROBABLE EFFORT FOR A SECOND TERM.
HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, MEETINGS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS09994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0852
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780332/aaaabaso.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7bad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3225239
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD OPENS HIS MAJORITY AND MITTERRAND AGREES TO MEETING AT ELYSEE SUMMARY. IN HIS FIRST POST-ELECTORAL SPEECH PRESI
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR, (D\'ESTAING, VALERY GISCARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7bad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014